

New Jersey Suicide Facts, 2003-2004

- New Jersey had the second lowest suicide rate in the nation in 2002.
- For every suicide in New Jersey, there are about seven suicide attempts that result in hospitalization.
- Suicide rates are highest among non-Hispanic whites.
- Male suicide victims outnumber female victims by 4 to 1 in New Jersey, yet there are fifteen non-fatal attempts by females that are serious enough for hospitalization for every male attempt.
- For both males and females, suicide rates are lowest among adolescents and highest among those aged 55 to 64.
- Nine out of ten suicides are completed by use of firearms, hanging or poisoning.
- Firearms are used less in suicides in New Jersey than elsewhere. Less than a third of New Jersey suicides were completed using firearms in 2003, as compared to more than half of suicides nationally.
- Men are nearly 4 times more likely to use firearms to complete suicide than women.
- Approximately 24% of New Jersey suicides involved poisoning in 2003.
- Nearly one-third of New Jersey suicide victims in 2003 had a diagnosed mental illness at the time of their suicide*.
- About one-fifth of New Jersey suicide victims in 2003 were reported to have symptoms of depression at the time of their suicide*.

*Analysis restricted to suicides in which circumstances were known (N = 417).

Sources: New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System, Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; CDC WISQARS; New Jersey Uniform Billing (UB-92) data. Anderson RN, Smith BL. Deaths: leading causes for 2001. National Vital Statistics Report 2003;52(9):1-86.



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